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DEPT. FOR EUR/WE (MENNUTI), EUR/PD/PA (HILTON), DRL/IRF (FARR), EAP/CM, SA/PAB, NEA/IAI, PRM/ANE

FROM EMBASSY VATICAN MESSAGE NUMBER 187/01

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: VATICAN VERBATIM

¶1. THE OCTOBER 20-26 EDITION OF NEWS AND VIEWS FROM VATICAN CITY.

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- POPE DECRIMES MIDDLE EAST VIOLENCE
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- VATICAN SAYS UNESCO TO PROMOTE DIALOGUE FOR PEACE
- VATICAN RATIFIES U.N. PROTOCOLS TO PROTECT CHILDREN

POPE DECRIMES MIDDLE EAST VIOLENCE

¶2. POPE JOHN PAUL II DEPLORED THE CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN ISRAELI TROOPS AND PALESTINIANS IN THE WEST BANK TOWNS OF BETHLEHEM, BEIT JALA AND BEIT SAHOUR. IN AN OCTOBER 21 ADDRESS IN VATICAN CITY, HE SAID THE VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WAS A "PATH OF DEATH, WHICH DISHONORS GOD'S NAME." THE POPE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN THAT "WAR AND DEATH HAVE EVEN ARRIVED AT THE SQUARE OF THE BASILICA OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD." THE POPE SAID IT MUST BE "EVERYONE'S COMMITMENT TO MAKE THIS (THE HOLY LAND) FINALLY A LAND OF PEACE AND FRATERNITY."

POPE REACHES OUT TO CHINA - AGAIN

¶3. POPE JOHN PAUL II HAS ISSUED AN APOLOGY TO CHINA FOR ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY CATHOLICS THAT OFFENDED CHINA OR GAVE THE IMPRESSION OF DISRESPECT FOR ITS CULTURE. THE POPE'S OCTOBER 24 MESSAGE WAS ADDRESSED TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ROME, ITALY MARKING FOUR CENTURIES SINCE THE ARRIVAL OF JESUIT

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MISSIONARY MATTEO RICCI IN BEIJING. THE POPE WROTE THAT PERSONAL LIMITATIONS, POLITICAL PRESSURE AND THEOLOGICAL DISPUTES SOMETIMES LED TO TENSIONS AND MISTRUST BETWEEN CHINA AND THE VATICAN. THE POPE OPINED THAT SUCH MISTRUST OFFSET THE "GOOD WORK" ACCOMPLISHED BY MISSIONARIES IN PREACHING THE CHRISTIAN MESSAGE, EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE. POPE JOHN PAUL EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT "CONCRETE FORMS OF COMMUNICATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE HOLY SEE AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA MAY SOON BE ESTABLISHED." (NOTE: THE VATICAN HAS REPEATEDLY SAID IT WOULD MOVE ITS DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION "OVERNIGHT" FROM TAIPEI TO BEIJING AS SOON AS CHINA AGREES TO NORMALIZE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. AT ISSUE IS THE VATICAN'S RELIGIOUS JURISDICTION OVER THE 10-15 MILLION CATHOLICS IN CHINA, INCLUDING THE VATICAN'S RIGHT TO ORDAIN BISHOPS FREE FROM STATE INTERFERENCE. END NOTE.) THE POPE SAID, "THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND THE HOLY SEE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE POSITIVE REPERCUSSIONS FOR HUMANITY'S PROGRESS." TAIWAN'S AMBASSADOR TO THE HOLY SEE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT WOULD RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE POPE'S OVERTURE TO BEIJING, WHICH HE DEFINED AS "EXCEPTIONAL." (SEPTEL TO FOLLOW).

CARITAS LAUNCHES APPEAL FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

¶4. CARITAS INTERNATIONAL, THE CONFEDERATION OF CATHOLIC RELIEF AGENCIES, HAS LAUNCHED AN APPEAL FOR US DOLLARS 11 MILLION TO FUND ITS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES. CARITAS SAID THE MONEY WOULD BE USED TO CARE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE FLED THEIR HOMES SINCE THE START OF THE MILITARY CAMPAIGN

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IN AFGHANISTAN, AS WELL AS THOSE ALREADY IN CAMPS IN PAKISTAN. CARITAS SAID THE MILITARY ACTION WAS COMPOUNDING AN ALREADY SERIOUS HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN, WHICH HAS SUFFERED THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF DROUGHT AND 22 YEARS OF WAR. MEANWHILE, THE VATICAN'S OBSERVER TO THE U.N. AGENCIES IN GENEVA, ARCHBISHOP DIARMUID MARTIN HIGHLIGHTED THE FORCED

DISPLACEMENT OF LARGE GROUPS OF PEOPLE, SUCH AS THE AFGHAN PEOPLE LEAVING THEIR HOMES TO AVOID THE CURRENT MILITARY ACTION. ADDRESSING A MEETING OF UNHCR, THE ARCHBISHOP SAID THE LACK OF PROTECTION FOR REFUGEES IS BECOMING AN INCREASINGLY CRITICAL INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM.

VATICAN SAYS UNESCO MUST PROMOTE DIALOGUE FOR PEACE

15. THE VATICAN'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE U.N. EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, MONSIGNOR LORENZO FRANA, HAS SAID THE ORGANIZATION'S ROLE IS THE SAME AS IT WAS IN THE YEARS AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR - "TO RAISE HUMAN SPIRITS TO THE DEFENSE OF PEACE, A STABLE PEACE BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 ACQ-00 CA-01 CIAE-00 INL-00 USNW-00
DODE-00 DS-00 EAP-00 FBIE-00 UTED-00 VC-00 TEDE-00
INR-00 IO-00 VCE-00 AC-01 NEA-00 DCP-01 NSAE-00
PM-00 ACE-00 SS-00 TEST-00 VO-03 SA-00 SNIS-00
NISC-00 PMB-00 DSCC-00 PRM-00 DRL-02 NFAT-00 SAS-00
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R 261432Z OCT 01
FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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OF THE INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL SOLIDARITY OF HUMANITY." FRANA
SAID THAT FOLLOWING THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS ON THE UNITED
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STATES, "IF IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF NATIONS TO ELIMINATE
TERRORISM," THE DUTY OF UNESCO, "CONSISTS IN DOING EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE SO THAT THE FUTURE IS ONE OF A DIALOGUE OF CULTURES
AIMED AT BUILDING PEACE." HE SAID UNESCO CAN BE A "CATALYST"
FOR A DEEPER REFLECTION ON THE ETHICAL ISSUES CONNECTED WITH
LIFE, EDUCATION, POVERTY, ECONOMICS, NEW TECHNOLOGY "AND
ESPECIALLY, GLOBALIZATION."

VATICAN RATIFIES TWO PROTOCOLS TO PROTECT CHILDREN

16. THE VATICAN'S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UNITED NATIONS, ARCHBISHOP RENATO MARTINO, HAS DEPOSITED THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION FOR A PROTOCOL ON CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT AND ANOTHER TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, BOTH SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN. DURING A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH MARTINO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT, OLARA OTUNNA, SAID VATICAN SUPPORT FOR THE PROTOCOL ADDED A WHOLE NEW MOMENTUM TO THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS. HE SAID THE VATICAN HAD A SPECIAL "MORAL PLATFORM" FOR USE IN EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE OTHER STATES. THE VATICAN WAS THE SEVENTH STATE TO RATIFY THE PROTOCOL AFTER CANADA, BANGLADESH, SRI LANKA, ANDORRA, PANAMA AND ICELAND. NICHOLSON

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